

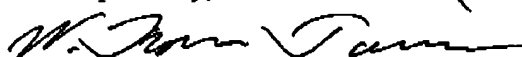
REMARKS

Claims 1 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United State Patent No. 6,277,053 to Desembrana. Desembrana does not show "mandible" support. It shows "cheek" support. The word "cheek" is repeated throughout the specification and the claims of the Desembrana patent. The word "mandible" does not appear. Further, comparing Figure 2 of Desembrana to Figure 1 of the current application makes the difference clear. Figure 2 of Desembrana shows that the mandible is clearly visible in the drawing, i.e. the strap does not support the mandible. This is made even more clear from the purpose of the device shown in the Desembrana patent, "Chin and Face Toning Strap." The strap is intended to support and tone the double chin and the flabby cheeks. The Desembrana strap also stretches, furthering that purpose.

The strap of the current invention, on the other hand, is meant for medical purposes to support the chin itself and the mandibles. Claim 1 has been canceled. The preamble of Claim 2 has been amended to state that the strap is "for preventing the airway obstruction of a user." Claim 2 includes the broadest limitation on the angle formed when the strap is laid out flat, something that the strap in Desembrana cannot really do, but in Figure 1 appears to be slightly less than 90 degrees. In Claim 2 of the present application, the smallest angle is 90 degrees.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested. A request for extension of time and a check to cover the fee are enclosed. Since the number and type of claims remain the same, no additional fee is required.

Respectfully,



W. Thomas Timmons
Registration No. 27,839 - Customer No. 29222
The White House on Turtle Creek
2401 Turtle Creek Blvd
Dallas TX 75219-4760
TEL 214-528-1881 Ext. 18
FAX 214-528-6578
timmons@ippractice.com